

Message Text

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PAGE 01 KUWAIT 03760 271039Z
ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-11 ISO-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00
ICA-20 TRSE-00 SOE-02 DOE-15 CIAE-00 /069 W
-----051796 271830Z /46

R 271013Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1310
IHN HDC/USDOC WASHDC
INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

UNCLAS KUWAIT 3760

DEPT. FOR NEA/ARP AND EB/TCA/OCA

USDOC FOR OEA

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ESTC, KU
SUBJECT: WHY IS THE USG IN THE BUSINESS OF DISCOURAGING EXPORTS?--
UNNECESSARY P. L. EXPORT TRANSACTION CHECKS

REF: (A) 76 STATE 297154 (NOTAL), (B) 76 KUWAIT 5572 (NOTAL).

1. TELEVISION RECORDING AND SERVICES CO., P.O.BOX 1039 SAFAT,
KUWAIT HAS REQUESTED EMBASSY ASSISTANCE IN OBTAINING AMPEX
INTERNATION OPERATIONS INC. VIDEO RECORDERS, COLOR CAMERAS
AND ANCILLARY VIDEO EQUIPMENT, VALUED AT 1.4 MILLION DOLLARS.
ONCE AGAIN THE EMBASSY EXPLAINED THAT VIDEO RECORDER EQUIPMENT
IS A "CONTROLLED MATERIAL" THAT REQUIRES COMPLETION OF FORM
DIB 629 P.

2. WE FAIL TO COMPREHEND WHAT IT IS ABOUT VIDEO EQUIPMENT THAT
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WARRANTS THE ADDITIONAL HASSLE TO A FOREIGN BUYER OF COMPLIANCE
WITH EXPORT CONTROL REGULATIONS. SURELY BY NOW COMMUNIST
COUNTRIES HAVE BEEN ABLE TO PURCHASE OFF THE SHELF SAMPLES
OF BLANK VIDEO TAPES AND VIDEO CAMERAS, PRODUCTS BECOMING
AS COMMON AS HOME MOVIE CAMERAS AND CASSETTE TAPES. ABOUT
THE ONLY RESULT WE CAN SEE OF THIS BUREAUCRATIC EXERCISE
IS TO OFFER YET ANOTHER LEG UP FOR ACTIVE FOREIGN COMPETITORS

SUCH AS THE JAPANESE, WHO SELL VIRTUALLY IDENTICAL PRODUCTS WITHOUT QUALM OR HESITATION.

3. ACTION REQUESTED: EXPORT TRANSACTION CHECKS FOR VIDEO TAPES ARE YET ONE MORE EXAMPLE OF USG OVERREGULATION THAT HURTS OUR ABILITY TO COMPETE IN WORLD MARKETS AND CONTRIBUTES TO OUR TRADE DEFICIT. WE RECOMMEND THAT USDOC IMMEDIATELY DROP THE REQUIREMENT REGARDING MOST VIDEO EQUIPMENT AND ACTIVELY REVIEW ALL CURRENT P. L. EXPORT TRANSACTION CHECK REQUIREMENTS, WITH A VIEW TO DRASTICALLY REDUCING ALL BUT ITEMS FOR WHICH SUCH CHECKS ARE REQUIRED. IN ORDER TO INSURE THAT ITEMS ON THE LIST ARE NOT KEPT ON LONG AFTER THEY ARE AVAILABLE AT MOST CORNER DRUG STORES, WE FURTHER RECOMMEND THAT A ZERO BASED BUDGETING APPROACH BE APPLIED TO SUCH LISTS - I.E. THE LIST BY STATUTE OR REGULATION SHOULD BE REVIEWED EVERY SIX MONTHS OR YEAR, RATHER THAN LETTING ITEMS STAY ON LONG PAST THE TIME EVERY SOVIET MINISTRY HAS ONE.

SUTHERLAND

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NNN

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